



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOPEKA MAN CHARGED IN CHILD PORN CASE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Aaron Shaffer**, 26, Topeka, is charged with **sending and receiving child pornography over the Internet**.

Melgren said an information filed with the court alleges that during the time from January 2003 to June 10, 2003, Shaffer received and distributed via computer images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The images included prepubescent minors and minors under the age of twelve as well as sadistic content and other depictions of violence.

Prosecutors are seeking the forfeiture of Shaffer's E-machine computer and 56 GB hard drive.

If convicted, Shaffer faces up to 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. If a defendant has a prior conviction on a similar charge, the sentence may be enhanced to up to 30 years.

The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tanya Treadway.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.